## Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



## **VA Rolls Out Veteran ID Card Program**

Sally Gibson, Executive Secretary

The County Board of Supervisors approved the issuance of Military Veteran ID cards by Veterans Affairs under the newly implemented Military Veteran ID Card program.



The ID card serves as an easy form of identification for veterans to show to local merchants who offer a benefit, such as discounts on purchases, free items, or preferred status to veterans who visit their business. With this card, the veteran will not need to carry a copy of their military discharge papers to prove their veteran status, or go to the Loma Linda V.A. hospital to apply for one of the ID cards.

Honorably-discharged veterans can visit a VA office in Hesperia, Rancho Cucamonga or San Bernardino to apply for their ID cards, or they can visit the VA website at hss.sbcounty.gov/va to access the application form online. Before cards are issued, veterans are briefly interviewed to determine their eligibility for federal monetary benefits.

Area merchants are invited to participate in the County's new Veteran-Friendly Business program.

Merchants participating in the program will display a free Veteran-Friendly Business window cling near the entrance of their business, and offer a veterans-only discount or benefit to veterans who carry and show their Military Veteran ID Card.

Business owners may recognize an increase in sales as veterans and those who support them choose to frequent Veteran-Friendly businesses over the competition. The County Veterans Affairs department will be able to identify and help eligible veterans obtain federal monetary benefits, which in turn helps the community at large.



Veterans and merchants are reacting favorably to the program. Victor Valley Transit Authority is on board with the Veteran-Friendly Business program and offers a discounted bus fare to veterans who present their program ID card.

"This is a great help to High Desert veterans using public transportation and may eventually benefit other veterans who ride the bus as discussions are underway with Omnitrans and Riverside Transit Authority to implement similar discount programs," said Bill Moseley, Director of Veterans Affairs.

For more information visit hss.sbcounty.gov/va.

